

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims with the following:

1. (Previously presented) A method for operating a user-interactive multi-device audio-video system that contains user speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,

wherein in the presence of a plural and functionally separate ones of said speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, driving the echo canceling facilities to combine their forces by one or more thereof for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.
2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by arranging various echo canceling facilities in series.
3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said series arrangement feeding the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner.
4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said series arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.
5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities and feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.
6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility.

7. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein such combining operates by arranging selected echo canceling facilities in a centralized control device (~~Figure 4~~) and feeding selected speech recognizing facilities in parallel.
8. (Previously presented) A multi-device audio-video system that contains speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the system as user speech,
wherein in the presence of a plural and functionally separate ones of said speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities, the echo canceling facilities are arranged to combine their forces through joint canceling means for canceling one or more mutually unique cancelable speech entities and combining means for combining such cancelled entities for overall non-recognition by the system.
9. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means include a serial arrangement that arranges ~~various~~ selected echo canceling facilities in series.
10. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said series arrangement feeding the speech recognizing facility in a centralized manner.
11. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said series arrangement feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.
12. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means have said echo canceling facilities centralized in a control device and are arranged for feeding various speech recognizing facilities in a distributed manner.
13. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means are arranged for centralizing said echo canceling facilities and speech recognizing facilities in a joint control facility.

14. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in Claim 8, wherein such combining means are arranged for centralizing selected echo canceling facilities and feeding selected speech recognizing facilities in parallel.

15. (Currently amended) A speech enhanced device for use in a multi-device audio-video system having speech recognizing facilities and echo canceling facilities for avoiding the recognizing of speech output from the device as user speech, comprising speech input/output means interposed between said ~~interconnected~~ speech recognizing and echo canceling facilities, for intercoupling another such device.

16. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

control means for selectively disabling one or more of said speech-recognizing facilities, said echo canceling facilities and audio output facilities of the device.

17. (Previously presented) The A device as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:

microphone out means and furthermore control means for selectively controlling one or more of said speech recognizing facilities, said echo canceling facilities, and said microphone out means.